

[English]

**Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme**

3339. SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts of Orissa identified under the Integrated Wasteland Development Projects Scheme ;

(b) whether Bolangir District of Orissa has been included in the identified areas;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to initiate the Integrated Wasteland Development Project Scheme during 1991-92 ;

(d) if so, the details thereof : and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (e) Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme was initiated for implementation from the year 1989-90 and is continuing. During the last two years projects under the scheme have been taken up in Sundergarh and Kalahandi districts of Orissa. For Bolangir district no project has been received from the State Government.

[Translation]

**Foreign Scholarships to the Candidates of SCs/STs**

3340. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes who are getting foreign scholarships at national level ;

(b) whether the amount of scholarship is so meagre that it is difficult to meet all the expenses of education ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the amount of this scholarship ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) 25 students belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, etc. are selected under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for higher studies abroad each year.

(b) The rates of scholarship paid to the students under the scheme are as follows :—

(i) Maintenance Allowance @ US \$ 6000 per annum for post-graduate and Ph. D. and US \$ 7000 per annum for post-doctoral research.

(ii) In addition, an allowance upto US \$ 350 per annum is paid to meet the actual cost of books, essential apparatus and study tour.

(c) There is no proposal to increase the amount of the scholarship.

**District Tuberculosis Centres**

3341. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of district tuberculosis centres working in the country at present and the number of beds

available for the treatment of tuberculosis patients ;

(b) the number of people suffering from tuberculosis according to the survey conducted so far in each State ;

(c) whether the number of Tuberculosis patients are increasing due to non-availability of proper treatment ;

(d) whether the prices of medicines required for the treatment of this disease have increased considerably as a result of which it has become difficult for the poor to take the treatment ;

(e) whether Union Government propose to provide financial assistance to State Governments keeping in view the spreading of this infectious disease; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI-MATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) 378 District Tuberculosis Centres have been established so far and about 47,000 T. B. beds are available in the country.

(b) Tuberculosis is not a notifiable disease. As such, precise and reliable data regarding actual number of persons suffering from tuberculosis, State-wise are not available. However, on the basis of the findings of a national sample survey conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research in 1955—58 and subsequent limited surveys conducted in different parts of the country, it is estimated that nearly 1.5% of the total population is suffering from radiologically active T. B.

disease of the lung, of which nearly 1/4th i.e. 0.4% are sputum positive or infectious.

(c) There is no evidence to suggest that the number of tuberculosis patients is increasing.

(d) The main emphasis under the National T. B. Control Programme is on detection of as large a number of T. B. patients as possible and treating them effectively. Anti-TB drugs are supplied to all District T. B. Centres/Peripheral Health Institutions and T. B. Clinics as per their requirement for free treatment of all diagnosed T. B. patients irrespective of cost of these drugs.

(e) and (f) As per the existing pattern of assistance of the Programme, essential anti-TB drugs, materials/equipments are supplied to the States/UTs. There is no provision for cash assistance under the National T. B. Control Programme.

### **System of Carrying Night Soil**

3342. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the system of carrying night soil on head is still prevalent in the country ;

(b) whether the Government propose to abolish this system through a phased programme ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.